



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 8/11/2004

GAIN Report Number: PL4026

Poland

Oilseeds and Products

Rapeseed Production Up in Poland

2004

Approved by:

Wayne Molstad, Agricultural Counselor
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

WFM

Report Highlights:

Poland's rapeseed crop harvest confirms a very large production increase. The crop is currently estimated at 1.3 MMT, which is more than 60% larger than last year and the highest since 1995.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Warsaw [PL1]
[PL]

Recent Main Statistical Office (GUS) crop estimates as well reports from the field confirm a very high rapeseed crop in Poland. A July 31st GUS crop estimate puts rapeseed at 1.15-1.29 MMT, 45-63% above the 2003 winterkill impacted crop. However, weather development since the GUS consideration (middle of July), current reports from the field, and various institutions suggest that the crop should be at a high GUS estimated level, around 1.3 MMT. Such a result will place production at more than 60 percent over last year and at the highest level since 1995. Such production is 18 percent larger than in our Oilseed Annual report, PL 4006, dated 3/30/2004.

Such high crop results are due to increased rapeseed area, now estimated by GUS at 0.5 Mha, 17% percent larger than the winter effected previous year. Out of the total rapeseed area winter rapeseed (more productive) area this year is 32 percent larger, while spring rapeseed (less productive) area has been reduced by 44 percent. Although weather conditions during winter rapeseed sowing were not favorable, mild winter conditions resulted in minor losses and favorable crop conditions in the spring. An early spring, bushier plants, long flowering season, very good moisture conditions and favorable temperatures resulted in high rapeseed yields. Highly increased results are confirmed this year from many rapeseed growing areas throughout the entire country; one-half of the crop has been harvested.

Although early in the season the oil crushing industry was paying farmers for delivered rapeseed over PLN 1,000 (\$273) per ton, similar to last year's price, now producer prices dropped to around PLN 800 (\$219) and even lower. It is estimated that around 1.0 MMT will be crushed in local crushing facilities during MY2004/05. Lack of completed bio-fuel legislation in Poland will result in almost 0.3 MMT expected exports from the 2004 crop.